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SECURITY INFORMATION

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

2 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, CIA
25X1A

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: United States Government Foreign Information
Policy

1. You will recall that on 20 August I sought your advice as to whether CIA should approve a document entitled "United States Government Foreign Information Policy" which was presented for inter-agency approval by the State Department at the 18 August meeting of the Psychological Operations Coordinating Committee. Paragraph 4 of this document (see attachment) states that "these [propaganda] guidances are binding on all foreign information activities of the departments and agencies of the United States Government." As I explained to you previously, PY Division feels that the use of the word "binding" could at some later date be misinterpreted so that CIA might be restricted in its operations. For your information, it is not the practice of covert media to follow State Department propaganda guidances word for word; instead, it is CIA's practice to review the daily guidances and develop appropriate themes which covert-controlled media can exploit in support of the overt effort.

2. Following our discussions, your office recommended that PY Division suggest to the POCC that the last sentence of paragraph 4 of the guidance statement be deleted and the following revision be inserted:

"Under nationally approved policy, these guidances are binding on all foreign information activities of the Department of State, Department of Defense, and the Mutual Security Agency."

3. On 25 August, the above revision in wording was recommended to the Chairman of the POCC, but the State Department did not wish to accept the change. It is the Department's belief that the original wording is satisfactory, and that it would in no way restrict CIA operations. In fact, the Department suggested that Paragraph 4 remain as originally written and that the following sentence be added:

"The choice of

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"The choice of operational techniques and specific material to be employed in achieving the defined objectives and carrying out prescribed tasks will be the responsibility of those agencies charged with foreign information activities."

CIA replied that the addition of this sentence did not soften the effect of the word "binding" and that we did not feel we could accept it. It was, therefore, agreed that the Chairman of the POCC, Dr. Wilson Compton, would refer the matter through channels to the Director of Central Intelligence for comment.

4. The foregoing information is supplied to you for use in the event that DCI's office refers the matter to the General Counsel for study. Should your office desire further assistance from PY Division, it is suggested that you contact the writer on Ext. 3155.

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Attachment: "U. S. Government Foreign Information Policy"

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